



NEWS RELEASE

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WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
ONE MAN SENTENCED, TWO PLEAD GUILTY
FOR ILLEGALLY POSSESSING FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City man was sentenced and two others pleaded guilty in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for violating federal firearms laws.

* **Jermaine D. Williams**, 21, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this afternoon to one year and nine months in federal prison without parole for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

On Aug. 3, 2004, **Williams** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Williams** admitted that he was in possession of a Ruger 9 mm semi-automatic pistol on April 21, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Williams** has a 2004 criminal felony conviction for obstructing the legal process and a criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

Williams was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on May 12, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Brett A. Zeiler**, 26, of Osceola, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Zeiler** admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson 9

mm pistol on Nov. 25, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Zeiler** has a 2001 criminal felony conviction for assault in Jackson County, Mo.

Zeiler was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on May 18, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Stephen J. Sanchez**, 19, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner this morning to being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Sanchez** admitted that he was in possession of a Glock .40-caliber pistol on Aug. 16, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any user or addict of a controlled substance to be in possession of a firearm. At the time he was in possession of the firearm, Graves said, **Sanchez** was also a user of methamphetamine.

Sanchez was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 10, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stefan C. Hughes. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow